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**CENTRAL FAX CENTER****FEB 27 2009**PATENTDocket No.: **UMBC-0012****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of

Confirmation No.: **2038**

Leah TOLOSA et al.

Group Art Unit: **1657**Serial No.: **10/552,164**Examiner: **Bin SHEN**Filed: **October 11, 2005**Customer No.: **68733**For: **PROTEINS, SENSORS, AND METHODS OF CHARACTERIZING  
ANALYTES USING THE SAME****REPLY TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION REQUIREMENT**U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action of October 1, 2008, wherein restriction and election has been required, Applicants hereby elect Group I (claims 1-21, 42 and 43), with traverse, for prosecution in the above-identified application.

Further, in response to the Election of Species requirement, Applicants hereby elect a glutamine-binding protein from among the proteins claimed in the Group C species (e.g., claims 19 and 36).

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of each of the designated inventions is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of each of the designated inventions would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining designated inventions. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it states that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or

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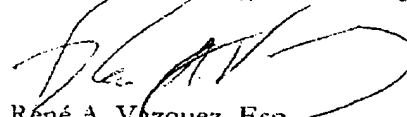
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Reply to Office Action OF October 1, 2008

independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, René A. Vazquez, at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sinergia Technology Law Group, PLLC



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Date: February 27, 2009

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